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Extracts from the Diary of Robert Searles
1823

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Extracts

FROM THE DIARY

OF

ROBERT SEARLES,

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PRINTED

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Writing to M Green
A II 553

Extracts

FROM THE DIARY

OF

ROBERT SEARLES,

Deceased.

"A highway shall be there—it shall be called, the way of holiness—the wayfaring man shall not err therein.

York:
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FROM THE
ANDREW PRESTON PEABODY
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February 3, 1942

ADVERTISEMENT.

The following memorandums of one who in his life and conduct adorned the station of a servant, are printed in the hope that the attentive perusal of them will be beneficial and animating, not only to those who may have to tread the same path, but to others who may be less exposed to outward toil and labour.

The short notice of the Writer which is prefixed, is taken in part from the Testimony of the Friends of his own Monthly Meeting. The extracts from this memorial are marked by inverted commas, and are, with a few alterations, inserted in the words of the original. They will be easily distinguished from other passages in it, taken from his own papers, which are also marked as quotations.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

"ROBERT SEARLES was born at Glatten, in Huntingdonshire, in the year 1764, of parents professing the religion of the Church of England. In his youth, he was a frequent associate with persons of irreligious characters, in the humblest sphere of life.—When about 23 years of age, he became seriously disposed, and soon after joined the society of Calvinistic Baptists, amongst whom he was esteemed a highly valuable member."

The circumstances which gradually led to a change on his views on the most important subjects, are described by himself, nearly in the following words. After regretting that a difference in religious sentiments should produce so hostile a disposition in some serious minds, as at that period he had observed, he proceeds to remark :—"The great Leader and Pattern of Christianity said to his disciples, 'He that is not against us is on our part;' but some think, because another does not see as they do, and does not walk with them, he cannot be a disciple. Whereas it would be much better to endeavour to imitate our holy Pattern, who was meek and lowly, kind and compassionate, willing to endure the cross, and despise the shame.

"I began to listen to what some of our neighbours said on this subject, that this was right, and the other wrong. I left off going to the meetings of the General Baptists, who held salvation possible to all men; and went amongst the Calvinistic Baptists, who profess that salvation is provided for only a part of mankind; and that this part are sure of it, without any possibility of their missing; it being unalterably fixed from all eternity, so that the creature has nothing to do in it: for means and ends are so unalterably fixed, as surely to be accomplished on the part of mankind, so predestinated. But although they thus profess, how often do their ministers invite *all* to the Gospel Feast, to partake of that bread, of which, *according to their own doctrine*, there may be none provided for them! But O! what a favour that no one is excluded thence, but those who exclude themselves. Welcome the ignorant and polite; the learned and the rude.

"I constantly attended the meeting of these Calvinistic Baptists, was very earnest to be instructed, paid all the attention I possibly could, and was glad when meeting-day was near, that I might go and hear another sermon. I also wanted to feel more of that power within, which was so much talked of amongst them, but in that I knew I fell short, although I greatly longed for it. The reason of this want, I could not tell; it being so strongly held out by the Minister, that the desire after it was life begun, meaning spiritual life; and then if begun, sure to be carried on.

"I well remember his saying many times, "How do I know that I live naturally? Why, because I breathe: so I know I have spiritual life, because I feel breathing or desire to be saved." But although it would encourage me a little, I felt that something more was wanting to satisfy me. I read much; prayed earnestly and constantly; endeavoured to get with those who I thought were spiritual: but all would not make me quite satisfied.

"I thought the people with whom I walked in a religious way were right, but that I was wrong myself. I thought I did not enter in at the right door: thus I went on until I became a member of their community; took part of the bread and wine; and was immersed in the river Ouse at Holywell: but I did not find myself so fully satisfied, as I thought others were who practised these things.

"My conduct all this time was steady and regular.—I was respected as a servant or labourer; but felt a great deal of that about me, which wanted doing away; yet not applying rightly for the perfecting of the work, it went slowly on.

"In the course of time my wife also became a member with the same people, and remained so until her death. I think I went on in this way about eight or nine years, and did not gain much spiritual ground, as I thought. In process of time, an occurrence hap-

pened which led to another change with me. My master who employed me, died; and another came who professed Quakerism, as it is called. He being observable of his new set of men, and religiously inclined, left books in our counting-house, which, being desirous of knowing religious people and things, I used to get and read.

"One of these books was, Robert Barclay's Apology for the Christian Faith, as held by the people called Quakers. I thought myself a match for that, but was mistaken; for whenever I read in it, it used to reach my feelings. Then I began with my master to talk about religious subjects, but was always overpowered on that head.—His reasonings on religious matters reached my feelings, and I found my mind inclining that way, as also did my wife, and rather more so than myself.

"I cannot very well remember how it happened, but I went to one of the Quarterly Meetings of Friends; and there being a pretty many ministering Friends that day, on an appointment from the Yearly Meeting, a great many living testimonies were borne in the power and authority of Truth, to the tendering of my spirit; and a refreshing meeting it was to me. On my returning home, I thought, surely these must be the people who hold the solemn meeting; and if I were clear of those other people, I should go to the meetings of Friends; but I did not know what I must do, nor how the matter would end. However, I was so far inclined to the

Friends, that I ventured the next first day to attend their meeting again, and some of the same Friends were there, and bore living testimony to the power of Truth, and again refreshed my spirit.

"One of these Friends, in the afternoon, was concerned to have a public meeting. I went, and had again another good time. O! thought I, this is the way for me to go in, and the language of my heart was, "This is the solemn assembly;" and I felt an increasing desire to be united with Friends. My master, who well understood my exercise of mind, heard what I had to say with sympathy, and was always ready to assist when and where he could; and ever since I have found him willing to lend a helping hand, as need required, for reproof or instruction. And I have found it best for me to take his advice, although, many times, very much in the cross to my natural inclinations. How much better is it to take advice, than to have our own wills gratified! I have many times found it best for me."

"Our endeared Friend became an exemplary, and we believe, constant attender of our religious meetings; and in the course of a few years, was, with the full unity of Friends, joined to us in membership. He was brought up to the trade of a miller, and for about the last thirty years of his life, resided at Houghton, in his native county, in the capacity of a servant." He was a widower for several years after he was united in mem-

bership with Friends, and married a second time in the year 1808.

"His exemplary life and conduct, his unaffected simplicity of manners, joined to deep humility, gained him the love and esteem of all his friends. Private retirement was his constant daily practice, and we doubt not but these seasons were beneficial to his own growth in the Truth, and increased his usefulness in the Society. Private admonition was also a duty which he often performed, though much in the cross to his own inclination. This duty, so strengthening to his own mind, was not confined to the members of our own Society, but extended to many others, by whom it was generally well received; being accompanied by that love which breathes 'Peace on earth and good will to men.'

"Thus dwelling near the fountain of Divine life, he was, in due season, enabled to yield to an apprehension of duty, to appear as a Minister in our religious meetings, which was to the comfort and edification of Friends. His first appearances were short, but evidently accompanied with the savour of life. Careful to follow his Divine Leader, his gift was much enlarged, and he received renewed ability, frequently to labour amongst those where his lot was cast. His testimonies were clear and impressive, accompanied by the baptizing power of truth, and eminently owned, as the duties of a faithful minister of his Lord and Master. His love to the cause and prosperity of Truth, led him

frequently to attend not only the several meetings in his own Quarterly meeting, but also many others near home.

"In the spring of the year 1820, he was taken unwell, but generally attended to his work." The following extracts from two letters, written about that time, describe the watchful state of his mind.

21*st of* 1*st Month*, 1820. "I feel glad to find myself at home again, amongst the concerns relating to this present life; although my service in this matter seems to me on the decline: yet I am most easy to do what is proper for me to do. I have thought much this day about what an Apostle said of himself and his fellow-labourers in the work of the Gospel: "As deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live." 2 Cor. vi. 8, 9. O! how I have desired, under the same feelings, to endure all things for the Gospel's sake; and patiently to pass through evil report and good report, with the same steady faith and confidence; and let none of these things move me; nor let me count any thing too dear to leave for the sake of that Gospel of life and peace, for which the Apostle and his companions underwent so many hardships, and some of them even death for its sake.

"I cannot think that I have done any thing, or suffered any thing, worthy of the regard of Him who so plentifully promises to reward in this life, and in the

world to come with life everlasting; but I feel myself as a beginner, desiring to obtain a measure of strength to abide the day of trial, and to do the day's work in the day."

"*7th of 4th Month*, 1820. I long that I may be one of the subjects of Christ's kingdom, which He tells us is not of this world; so that I may be redeemed from the root of all striving, patiently submitting unto the Heavenly Father's will in all things. I hope I shall not complain, nor think my case hard. I am mortal, and must decay as to the outward, but am at times (although at some others very much discouraged) in the hope that the inward man gains a little strength; but more deepening is necessary, to come to a certainty of being prepared for an admittance into peace, when the spirit leaves the mortal tabernacle.

"I hope my dear friend is recruiting in strength, and growing in the life of Truth, so as to be able to work in the heritage of the Heavenly Husbandman, having a qualification to repair the waste places thereof. O! remember, dear friend, how frail man is! at best but a failing flower, which, whilst the day of sunshine and heavenly rain continues, *does* and *looks* well; but how soon may a blast nip it, or drought dry it up, and the freshness thereof fade. Therefore, learn more and more to cease from man, and trust in the Lord alone for help and strength, to work whilst it is day, and vigour is felt before desire fail. O! fear not man; neither what he

can do unto thee, any more than help thee; but look inward, have thy mind centered in the life alone, and as that moves, move with it."

"On seventh day, the 15th of the 4th month, our dear friend became much worse. Although suffering under much debility of body, he attended the meeting at Ives, on the following day, where he was favoured to labour in a remarkable manner for the last time, forcibly impressing upon friends the necessity of a frequent recurrence to that Divine Power, which had called us to be a people, in order to obtain instruction and direction, so to walk, as happily to be found among the number of those, who had not seen their Lord and Master naked, sick, or in prison, without ministering to Him.

"He was confined to the house about a week. In a note to a friend, a few days before, he concludes thus: 'O! dear friend, what a happy escape, to be removed from these changing scenes to a state of uninterrupted tranquillity! but I desire first to bear patiently all that is needful, for a preparation for such a pure state.'

"On the 17th, a friend going to see him, in the course of conversation he instructively remarked:—'There is nothing will do but keeping in the cross;' and further observed, that he knew not how it might be, but in this illness he felt no condemnation. The same friend visited him again on the 21st, when under great suffering of body; but his mind was remarkably

calm and tranquil: he had done his day's work in the day time, and having nothing now to do but to die, he again emphatically repeated, 'I feel no condemnation.'

"Feeling a little revival of strength, he requested his wife and a few friends to sit with him awhile, when he said: 'Now what I want for us is, that we may be more fully dedicated, more resigned to follow the Lord, to follow Christ Jesus: there is no other way.' And soon after he remarked: 'I do not see but I may yet abide, though the petition of my mind is, 'O! that I had wings like a dove, then would I flee away, and be at rest, and hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.' I have need of resignation to bear these sharp afflictions.'

"In this peaceful state of mind, was this dedicated servant of the Lord permitted to exchange time for immortality. This solemn event took place on the 24th of the 4th month, 1820. That Divine Power which had been so eminently his support in life, did not forsake him in sickness; that which had been to him riches in poverty, was now a present helper in the time of need; evincing the truth of that declaration concerning our Lord, that 'having loved his own, He loved them unto the end.'"

EXTRACTS

FROM THE DIARY, &c.

Section E.

From 21st of 6th Month, 1811, to the 4th of 6th Month, 1812.

In the first few pages of this Diary, it has been thought suitable to present the reader with it, without much curtailment; for though it may thereby wear some appearance of sameness, yet it evinces more impressively than a mere explanation of it could do, the lively care and continued concern of the writer to watch over his own soul, and to seek that help and sustenance which cannot be derived from any thing short of a daily communion with the Beloved of Souls: That this frequent introvertion is blessed with sustaining efficacy—yea, even in those seasons which may be compared to the drought in summer, or the frost of winter, the happy experience of thousands can testify: and among this number may be classed the humble Author of this Diary. As, however, a bare recital of observing, or being deprived, of seasons of retirement, if pursued to much length, might fail of any tendency

to edify the reader, however useful the record of them might be to the writer, such recitals are omitted in the subsequent parts of this Diary.

DIARY.

21*st of* 6*th Month*, 1811. Attended our Quarterly Meeting, and although I did not find my mind very lively in the forepart of it, yet I was somewhat comforted, after hearing the Yearly Meeting's Printed Epistle read; hoping I could, in some small degree, answer that part of it which queries, "Is your salvation nearer than when you believed?" in a little present faith that it was so. In the Meeting for Discipline, I felt an apprehension of duty to express a passage of Scripture which had opened to my view; and after much tossing and perturbation, and keeping it back until near the close of the Meeting, I ventured to stand up, and endeavoured to repeat it; but I fear so as to be scarcely intelligible. I felt peace of mind. O! how I long that I may endeavour daily to seek to the Lord, who alone can enable me to walk worthy of so high and holy a profession as I make to the world, and to prize preservation therein as my chiefest joy.

Not so watchful in the evening in conversation, as to retire without some uneasiness of mind.

22nd. Endeavoured this morning to feel after best help before I entered on my day's work; and it has proved a pretty quiet day.

23rd. First day. Got up early, to feel after quietude of mind before the family arose. Read in Sarah Grubb's Journal. I earnestly desire for such an humble frame of spirit as she possessed. Went to Meeting, and was permitted, after a time of previous exercise, to feel a little of the quickening virtue of truth. Went to Huntingdon Meeting in the evening, and had some inward struggles; but truth had the ascendency, and I was refreshed in spirit.

24th. Endeavoured this morning to get down to the spring of Life, but found it hard work. O! for more willingness to labour for daily bread, and for submission of will to best direction. Read the Yearly Meeting's Epistle. In the afternoon suffered my mind to get ruffled by trifling events, which left uneasiness. I wish more and more to turn to that which smiteth.

26th. Rose early to retire a little before beginning the labour of the day. Read in the

Bible this morning. Was favoured after breakfast, with a time of inward refreshment in my family.

27th. Arose at four o'clock. Endeavoured to feel after the springing up of that Life, which enliveneth the spirit; and, though sensible to myself of little help at this time, was enabled to get through the day without condemnation.

29th. Up at four o'clock, sat awhile alone in silence, and then read in Bevan's Life of Penington until time to go to my day's work. In the afternoon rather too impatient respecting the trifles of the day.

1st of 7th Month. Endeavoured to feel after good this morning, and although I found myself heavy and dull, yet find it good to seek daily for that, which when found, does enliven and animate the soul to press forward.

2nd. Up early, and permitted to partake of a little of that bread which nourishes up the soul to eternal life. Attended Monthly Meeting to day; and when there desired to be under the influence of that power, which can enable to do or to suffer any thing. But oh! the contrary disposition which sometimes ariseth! I long

more and more to be so reduced as to be just what is best for me; but this is hard to flesh and blood.

4th. Sat alone this morning, and read in the Bible previously to entering upon my labour. Off my watch in the course of this day, and used some unbecoming expressions to a fellow workman, which gave me uneasiness. O! for more of that love which is not easily provoked, and thinketh no evil!

6th. Spent a short time alone this morning before work: compared my feelings to a cloudy morning, but was not without a living desire that the Sun of Righteousness would be pleased to break through and shine.

7th.—First day morning. Wrestling in spirit for the pure life. O! what need there is to seek to Him, who alone remains to be the helper of the needy.

8th. Too long in bed this morning, and but little time before going to work; passed the day without condemnation, but should be glad to feel more solemnity on my mind this evening, and no doubt I should, if I were more inwardly exercised.

10*th*. By rising too early this morning, my body was not enough rested, which makes me dull and heavy, and unable to enter into inward labour.

11*th*. Sat in silence this morning, and felt as if the streams of life were quite stopt: there is much rubbish to obstruct, and flinching is also felt when the work is hard. O for more willingness to labour for spiritual bread!

12*th*. My moisture is like the drought in summer.

13*th*. Poor and low; but longing after a closer union and communion with the Divine life, got through this day pretty well.

14*th*.—*First day*. Retired awhile and found some quiet. After breakfast read to my family that part of Scripture relating to the death of Jacob. Our spirits were tendered, and I thought this feeling better than the increase of corn, or any thing relating thereto. I long that it may be the care of heads of families, to be in the practice of having a portion of the Scriptures read daily therein, and to observe a solemn pause after so doing: and although it may not be permitted always to feel good to the mind at such

seasons, yet it is good to be waiting and hoping; and if good is experienced, it makes ample amends for our dedication herein. Attended Huntingdon Meeting both morning and evening, and although tried therein, yet not altogether without some impressions of good: and I remembered in one of the sittings, "They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy;" (*Rom.* xxvi, 5.) and I felt encouraged.

15*th.* Up early, yet had little time for retirement, business requiring my attention, but felt my mind seriously desirous for best support through the day.

16*th.* Went to Meeting, in which I found a hard combat between flesh and spirit. What a continual warfare is a Christian life! and if it was not for a little spiritual refreshment now and then mercifully vouchsafed, how difficult would it be to maintain it.

17*th.* Panting after the pure life, and wishing I was so watchful as not to be the cause of obstructing its arising into dominion. This day passed quietly away.

18*th.* Retired this morning before beginning my day's work. I thought I felt as if I sat under my own Vine and my own Fig Tree, where

none maketh afraid. How strengthening to the mind are such seasons!

19th. How different this to last morning! so dull and heavy, as if I had no life. I feel truly, that although the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.

20th. Poor and low this morning, but wishing to learn, in whatsoever state, therein to be content; knowing what it is, in some degree, both to want and to abound. How precious is that life which brings the mind to the state of a little child!

21st. Experienced a little strength to my mind this day in solemn silence; although some trying matters occurred, in things pertaining to this transitory life. I wish for more of that love which is not easily provoked, and to manifest the same in conduct and conversation.

22nd. Up early that I might have a little time for retirement; and although the blessing promised was not so fully experienced as desired, yet a little quiet was felt, and a desire more willingly to labour for daily bread, that quickening power which alone can enable to maintain the warfare between flesh and spirit.

23rd. The comfort of my retirement this morning, interrupted by the remembrance that yesterday I was too free in conversation with my fellow workmen. Much caution is required, over our words as well as actions.

24th. Lay too long in bed this morning, and thereby but little time to retire. The morning is a good time for serious reflection: and I often find the yesterday's transactions revive, causing peace or sorrow according to actions done. This the Good Remembrancer does for me.

25th. My mind solemnly impressed this morning, though the time of retirement was short, business requiring early attention. Felt refreshed after our family reading this morning.

27th. My mind like the parched ground, hard and dry. O! that I may wait willingly and attentively for the distilling of the heavenly rain, to soften and make it fruitful unto the Lord!

29th. Had but a short time for retirement this morning, but my mind was weightily impressed, under a sense of the need I have, to be inwardly strengthened to persevere in the path of peace.

2nd of 8th Month. Up early and walked for a time, felt very low and void of good. What a state of exile this feels to be!

3rd. Felt a little inward support in my retirement this morning, which was short; owing to having so many hours to labour for outward maintenance, I have but little leisure to devote to religious engagements; but He who cares for the sparrows, and numbers the hairs of our heads, knows all things, and can help the sincere-hearted to every necessary good. His promises remain the same, and He will never leave nor forsake those that fear and serve Him in faithfulness.

4th.—First day. Am going to Meeting, and glad of the opportunity. I often consider it a favour that there is one day in seven that we, the laborious part of mankind, are released from employ; that those who are disposed for it may attend to religious opportunities for Divine worship.—A privilege I was at one time deprived of; but not so for the last twenty years. What a favor it is to have religious employers!

8th. No time for retirement this morning. After breakfast read the account of Moses's going up into the Mount. The cloud covered

the Mount six days, and on the seventh the Almighty spoke to him. This impressed my mind with the necessity of a due preparation of soul, before we can rightly know the voice of Him that speaketh from heaven; and it brought to my mind the practice too common of hastily rushing into words, in acts of worship, without the needful preparation of heart for so solemn a duty.

10*th*. A time of conflict in my time of retirement this day. I want to feel the house of David in me to wax stronger and stronger, and that of Saul to grow weaker and weaker. I am solicitous that I may be enabled to maintain the warfare, until the work in me is accomplished.

12*th*. Sat alone as usual, when this language arose: "Be constant in seeking that which nourisheth up the soul to eternal life; and faint not, O my soul! until all is done away, that opposes the righteous government of Him whose right it is to reign."

18*th*. Glad of the return of the First day of the week. Some quiet granted in my retirement this morning. Went to Meeting; had a solid sitting. In the afternoon sat with my

Master's family when reading; and after it spent a time in silence to satisfaction. How pleasant it is to see a large family so orderly; and so much sweetness amongst them!

19th. Felt my mind weighty this morning. I wish I may continue in the same frame all day, amidst the transactions thereof.

20th. Went to Meeting, and was comfortably refreshed thereby. Let the slack attenders say what they will, I find it best for me to be constant.

23rd. Slept too long this morning, and feel concerned that I have missed the opportunity of sitting alone before engaging on my day's work. Having often known the benefit of so doing makes me now regret the loss.

26th. Not sufficiently on my guard to day.

27th. At our week day Meeting, got a little precious quiet towards the close.

29th. Up early and expecting a time of retirement, but was called away; had however a little sweet refreshment after breakfast, in reading and sitting awhile in silence at the close.

1st of 9th Month. My mind tendered this morning, by reading some of the dying sayings of Friends recorded in Piety Promoted; went to Meeting, and had a good refreshing time there.

20th. In my retirement this morning, had to labour against a wandering mind; yet, in the close, felt renewed in spirit.

22nd. Am glad Meeting day is returned. O! for a willingness to rightly labour for that bread which nourisheth up to eternal life.

27th. Attended our Quarterly Meeting, at which were present several valuable Friends, and a favoured time indeed it was: divers minds were melted into that tenderness and solidity of feeling, which raises a longing to be supported by that Power, which alone can enable us to persevere in that which is good, and hold out to the end in well-doing.

28th. My mind preserved in quiet resignation through the day, in which I was concerned to admonish an individual to whom I had formerly been united in religious feeling, on some impropriety of conduct. He acknowledged my kind intention, which was relieving. I wish for myself and others to take up this part of the

cross, when we see a friend or neighbour sliding away from the path of peace. It is written in Scripture: "Rebuke a wise man and he will love thee." Prov. IX. 8.

29th. Although poor, yet peaceful in mind: and I long, in accordance with our great Master's advice, to possess my soul in patience.

14th of 10th Month. Up early, and endeavoured to feel after the Divine life in myself, knowing the need I have of daily support. In my zeal to discharge myself faithfully towards my employer, in reproving unfaithful servants, I suffered that to arise which wants to be kept in subjection. I desire I may in future be preserved in a right disposition on such occasions, should they again occur.

17th Endeavoured after that life which is the support of the true Christian Traveller. How comforting in time of religious drought is the celestial shower!

22nd. Went to our Meeting: present only myself and a little girl, about 8 years old; friends being generally gone to attend the burial of our friend Ellington Wright; but the good Spirit being felt to be near, I was refreshed.

26th. Satisfied in my solitary sitting this morning. It is difficult for us to know what we lose, when we neglect the practice of waiting upon Him, who has promised to renew the strength of them who do so.

2nd of 11th Month. I have of late felt Truth powerfully operating on my mind, to gather it home to a settlement therein. This is a great favour; and my present desire is, to live near that which I am well assured can keep me from falling; although the contrary spirit besets me, and does often occasion great conflict.

3rd. Read a chapter in the Book of Joshua, and in sitting still after, was a little refreshed thereby. I long for a supply of those streams, which make glad the whole heritage of God.

8th of 6th Month, 1812. In reading over what I have written, I have been convinced there is a benefit in minuting down some of our daily exercises; and when I neglect it, I am satisfied it is a spiritual loss to me. I feel earnest breathings of soul after a state of mind, capable of serving Him who is not a hard Master, with a willing heart and upright intention.

9th. At Meeting to-day derived a little spiritual strength. How precious is solemn silence and waiting upon God! I have many times thought in my solemn sittings in Meetings, what a privilege it is to be disencumbered of the world, with the mind centred on that Power who humbleth the heart and contrites the spirit.

23rd. Up early this morning, and desirous to feel that which would build up and establish in the most holy faith. The watch-word in my retirement was: "If thou wilt enter into life, keep my commandments—deny thyself—take up the cross—and follow Jesus Christ."

2nd of 2nd Month, 1813. Yesterday was our Monthly Meeting, in which I sat in much weakness, and much fear and trembling; and desiring that I may be very careful not to dishonour the best of causes therein, but may humbly and perseveringly seek to that which alone can afford sufficient light and strength for every station in life! This morning, when sitting with my family, after fearing that I should be like those who turned back and walked no more after Jesus, I was favoured with that precious feeling of good, which gives strength and encourages to persevere.

21st. Attended Earith Preparative Meeting. It was a good time, and I was enabled to desire

to persevere, and hold out to the end. He that endureth to the end will be saved. Contemplating this day on the presence of the Almighty, and how we could appear before his awful Majesty, my mind derived a ray of encouragement from remembering, "He that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him: for God is love." I *John*, IV. 16.

6th of 5th Month. At our Monthly Meeting yesterday, I felt much reduced, and thought, how awful it is to appear before Him, who sees not as man seeeth, and who in mercy is pleased to comfort the sincere-hearted. He remains to be to them a present help and sure support. May I not turn out of the right way, nor loiter by the way; but keep on, steadily eyeing the sure Guide to the kingdom of rest and peace.

30th. Inclined to think on my ways, and to have the feet of my mind turned towards the Testimonies of the Lord, so as to make them my delight; to the praise of Him who has created us for a purpose of his own glory. I may venture to say, I love the Lord, because He has heard the voice of my supplication. He has inclined his ear unto me; therefore (by his help) I will call upon Him as long as I live, that He may hold me in his holy hand, from drawing

back, which I often fear for myself; yet this language prevails, "To whom shall I go? Thou hast the words of Eternal life." *John*, VI. 68.

4th of 6th Month. Poor and low in my inward man, and how acceptable, in the Lord's time, are the returns of a renewal of strength; and when in mercy vouchsafed, what consolation doth the persuasion afford, that "As a Father pitieth his children, so doth the Lord those that love and fear Him." *Psalm* CIII. 13.

Section II.

To the 19th of 11th Month, 1816.

The first Memorandum in this Section, found in his own hand writing, is without date, but, from the circumstances connected with it, appears to belong to this place, and to relate to his feelings before his appearance in the ministry, as mentioned in the next observations, dated the 1st of 2d Month, 1814, *and was probably made during the interval to which that remark in his Diary alludes.*

Having obtained mercy through many trials, and in much weakness, to be measurably faithful to that Light which shows the right way and good old path, I have continued to this day, desiring to be a witness both to small and great, that I am a disciple of Him who died and rose again for mankind; feeling in myself a dying daily to sin, but being alive unto God, through the virtues of Him who is the true Bread of Life, and will never leave nor forsake those who put their trust in Him; although they may, at times, feel as if

they were cut off for their part. If there be a struggling exercise maintained; not giving up, but pressing through the crowd of difficulties, the time will most assuredly come when a cure will be witnessed, and an evidence felt, somewhat like what was said to the woman formerly:—"Daughter, be of good comfort, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace." This is and has been the happy experience of thousands, and will be that of all those who continue to seek that Power which works both to will and do of his good pleasure. O my soul! keep near, keep near to that which alone can bear up under every weight, and make useful in the Church, until this mortal must put on immortality, and the work be completed to the praise of the Great Workman.

1*st of 2nd Month*, 1814. After a considerable lapse, I again resume my pen, to record the Lord's tender dealings with me at our Monthly Meeting to-day, at Huntington. I was under exercise, and near the close obtained relief by expressing what impressed my mind. I greatly desire I may not hurt the good cause I have espoused, but seek after that which can preserve from all hurtful things, both in Meetings and out of Meetings.

2nd. Endeavoured this morning to seek after Divine strength, and have not been disappointed this day.

7th. More and more desirous to know a communion with Him, who is our chiefest good, and O! that I may commit myself wholly to his guidance; He will not leave nor forsake those who trust in Him.

18th of 2nd Month. In silent retirement, the prayer of my heart has been for my own and my children's preservation in the truth, and dedication to Him who knows the secret breathings of every soul.

12th of 4th Month. Some late Meetings have been exercising and trying to me, yet endeavouring to seek to that Power, which alone can quicken and make alive the soul to God. I wish ever to be found waiting for it, well knowing that nothing short of Divine aid can be effectual to that end. It is a great favour, that in some seasons of retirement, out of Meetings, refreshment has been vouchsafed to the mind; and earnest is my desire that I may feelingly adopt the language of one formerly: "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me by thy free Spirit."

18th. It has not as yet very often fallen to my lot to break up or close our Meeting for worship, but it did this day; and I felt it a serious engagement. The spirits of those on whom this

duty devolves, should be weighty and watchful for the right intimation, neither closing it too soon nor sitting too long.

20th. In retirement to-day I was strengthened and instructed, by remembering how short and dwarfish I am, compared to many who have been more vigilant and watchful; and I have seen clearly the fault is my own. I have been so backward to retire and seek for that help, which can and will carry on the good work of redemption, if rightly sought after, and not impeded in its progress, by the hindering and entangling things of this life. O! that the time past may suffice, and that I may be more diligently devoted to Him, who is alone worthy to be served and obeyed, and who teaches as never man taught.—Strengthen me, O my Saviour! to be willing to submit to every dispensation which Thou seest meet for my refinement; fully believing all things which reduce the creaturely will, promote subjection to thy pure will.

26th. Impressed with the apprehension, that if I am one of the flock and family of God, surely one of the least and the most unworthy.

28th. Week day Meeting was an exercising time, but Almighty goodness was near in an in-

structing manner, and my mind was relieved by expressing a few words therein; and I returned home peaceful in mind, and accompanied by a desire to guard against any thing, that would hurt the pure plant of the Lord's own planting in myself or others.

30th. My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit rejoiceth in God my Saviour, in remembrance of his mercy. I long for mankind, that they would turn to the Lord, with their whole heart. His loving kindness is towards them, and would gather together in one his children, who are scattered abroad to the ends of the earth.—And may I not flinch nor give back in times of trial or afflictions, but patiently endure any allotted suffering; "Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our Faith, who, for the oy that was set before him, endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set at the right hand of the Throne of God." *Heb.* XII. 2. He is our Advocate with the Father.

10*th of 7th Month.* Some conflict at Meeting today. O! that I may be willing to be reduced to a full submission to the will of the great Master, and become as a little child, prepared to enter the Kingdom, with the blessed inhabitants, the redeem-

ed of the Lord, and qualified to join them in hallelujahs to his holy name!

24th. Attended Meetings at Huntingdon this day; that held in the forenoon was dull and laborious; that in the evening more favoured with the influence which comforts the mind, animates the soul, and strengthens to fulfil apprehended duty, the result of which is my experience this evening.

25th. On reading some observations respecting Ackworth School to-day, how I have desired that those who have been, or may hereafter be educated there, may prize their privilege and benefit by so great a favour, as a religious, guarded care over them in their youth.

12th of 12th Month. Convinced this day that I should not have so long omitted putting down some of my exercises—how easy it is to slide away from that which appears to be right! One day after another passes away, and without watchfulness we might soon lose all sense of good.—Divine goodness and mercy follow us; and what a favour it is that the good Remembrancer is near, to bring to mind things that are past, and also to excite to present duty.

29th. The troubles of my heart are enlarged.

O, bring Thou me out of my distress! In his own time, which is the best time, I trust He will. In my present exercise, my dear children are very near to my heart, and fearfulness attends lest they should not do well. I long for them to be witnesses for truth and righteousness upon the earth. Gracious Father! is the language of my heart, draw them by the cords of thy love, and allure them into the wildnerness; and there speak comfortably unto them; that they may have strength to cast all their care upon Thee, whose hand is not shortened that it cannot save, nor thine ear grown heavy that it cannot hear! O, that all the impediments between Thee and them may be removed; and the incomes of Divine consolation be poured into their precious souls! O! that they may prize the favour of Divine visitation, and improve the talent or talents committed to them, and not be of them who bury them in the earth, or smother them amongst the vanities of the world, to their own hurt, and religious ruin.

6th of 2nd Month, 1815. This morning my mind is humbled before Him, who is the same yesterday, to day, and for ever; and I was made a little thankful at the remembrance of delivering a few words in Meeting sometime ago, which I trust are in some degree come to pass, towards

some for whom I feel deeply interested; not only as it regards them as individuals, but also as professors of the Truth, as it is in Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

22nd. Believed it right to attend the week-day Meeting at Huntingdon this morning, and my valued employer having, without hesitation, kindly set me at liberty, I went and attended the Meeting, under a sense of my own inability to do any thing aright of myself; and soon after sitting down I was favoured to feel a little quietude of mind, and renewal of strength, under which, for some time, I waited, when an exercise arose to express a few words. I returned home from this Meeting in peace, and thankfulness to Him, who I trust graciously vouchsafed to strengthen a poor, weak creature, to do that which he apprehended to be a Divine requiring. May I be preserved in humility and child-like dependance, learning the lesson given forth by the Redeemer of Mankind: "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest to your souls." *Matt.* XI. 29.

25th. This morning endeavoured to seek after inward strength at first rising, but found the enemy to all good striving against me. But what an inestimable favor to experience, in such seasons,

the efficacy of the Divine Master's rebuke, when he arose and said: "Peace, be still; and the wind ceased, and there was a great calm." Faith is hereby renewed, and wisdom's ways are afresh seen to be ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. Favoured with great sweetness in our week day Meeting, where I was exercised to express a few words; but which, without the blessing, could not feed any poor mind.

28th. In our silent retirement after reading this morning, a query came into my mind, Whether, if required, I should be willing to leave all for Christ; and a fear succeeded that I should be like the young man who went away sorrowful.—Oh lamentable case indeed! Not willing to forsake all for Him, who died to save from sin and eternal death, and who has promised to be with his dedicated children and servants to the end of the world. O! that, like the Father of the faithful, I may cheerfully attend to every pointing of duty, and resign every thing, near and dear, even as an own beloved son.

14th of 3rd Month. I was last night affected by an account of the sufferings of some Friends, a few years since, in Yorkshire, for our testimony against the Anti-christian yoke of Tythes; and one of them, Joseph Brown, dying in prison for

his faithful testimony therein, as did many of our ancient Friends and forefathers in the truth. We profess to follow the same principle, and I believe there are many precious brethren who are made willing, not only to believe in Christ, but, if called to it, to suffer for his sake. What have I suffered for Christ's sake, in comparison to those who have given up joyfully to the spoiling of goods, to imprisonment and death, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season!

I greatly desire that I may be preserved in the Truth, without flinching, whatever may befal me; and may I, according to my small measure, be valiant therein, steadily attending to that Power within, which still is and ever will be a stay and staff for the righteous to lean upon.—After reading the 102nd and 103rd Psalms to my family, I was strengthened to recount the mercies of the Lord to me and mine, and felt and expressed a desire that we might be preserved alive in the Truth, until death may remove us from this transitory state; and that we might not again return to folly.

16th of 3rd Month. On reading the 16th, 17th, and 18th verses of 26th chapter of Isaiah, the spirit of supplication covered my mind, on my

own and my family's account; that we might be helped by Almighty power, to become his faithful children and devoted servants.

17*th*. At our week-day Meeting to-day, after a little act of dedication, which produced relief to my mind, I was made sensible of my own inability to do good without the gracious aid of the Holy Spirit; and I often feel the fear, lest this language should be applicable to me: "Behold, all ye that kindle a fire; that compass yourselves about with sparks: walk in the light of your fire, and of the sparks that ye have kindled.—This shall ye have of mine hand; ye shall lie down in sorrow." O my soul! be thou watchful, humble, patient, and submissive, at all seasons; waiting to learn of Him, who teaches as never man taught.

18*th*. This morning, after reading to my family, our minds were humbled and refreshed by Him who waiteth to be gracious, to them who seek of Him their daily bread.

20*th*. Favoured with, I hope, a little right help in Meeting to endeavour to excite reverent adoration of Almighty God, and fear before Him; with a renewed belief that, if kept to, it would produce love and fear of offending Him; and re-

ligion would become a delight, or, in other words, it would become our meat and drink, to do the will of our Lord and Master.

21st. This morning, great pain of body, for three hours, caused close searching of the heart, and feeling after an evidence of acceptance, if removed out of the body. O! what need, in time of health, to be preparing for the solemn change! nothing had need be left to be done when the pains are heavy on the body. May this be my first and chief concern, to seek to the Helper of Israel, for support to walk in the ways of salvation.

7th of 4th Month. After a time of trial, refreshed to-day at Meeting. "Blessed are ye that sow by all waters, that send forth thither the feet of the ox and the ass. O! that more concern may be felt, at all times, to labour to overcome the Evil One! In order for that, O! my soul, watch thou in all things; stand fast in that faith which gives the victory; quit thyself like a man; be strong in the strength of Him, who is the strength of Israel, and will remain to be his People's helper in every time of need, as they steadily look unto Him for it; yea, even to them that are discouraged with thinking they cannot get forward. Trust in Him at all times, all ye

his people, pour out your hearts before Him.—God is a sure refuge for us all to flee to.

22nd. This morning, my wife and self had a favoured opportunity in reading after breakfast, when I supplicated the Almighty for preservation in his holy, pure fear, the remainder of our days. May I feel a daily increase of concern to dwell deep in the low valley of humiliation, and in self denial; and may the Lord be pleased to work powerfully in my soul, to will and to do of his good pleasure, that thereby a preparation of heart may be experienced, for a safe arrival in eternal rest and peace.

28th. Was refreshed at Meeting to-day, in silent waiting upon the Lord; precious feelings are at times experienced in thus waiting on Him, who has promised, that where the two or three are met together in his name, there will He be in the midst of them; and his promises remain to be yea and amen for ever. His ways are ways of pleasantness, and all his paths are peace! his right hand and his holy arm will, I believe, give the victory over every besetment, to the watchful mind; and cause a song of praise to his holy name.

29th. Exercised this morning in my silent

waiting, respecting my sometimes appearing in our Meetings as a mouth for the Lord, and was enabled to pour out my soul in earnest breathings to the Lord, to be preserved in holy fear and resignation, to the turnings and overturnings of his holy power upon me; desiring to give up that which is for the sword to the sword, and that which is for the famine to the famine; that nothing may remain but that which cannot be shaken; and may I "be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man."

9th of 5th Month. Very much tried the last two days, with a fear I should one day fall by the hand of the enemy; and it will be so, if not preserved from iniquity, by the redeeming power of the Lord, which is able to do all things in and for us.

12th. The week day Meeting to-day was a time of favour, and I was strengthened a little to speak of the goodness of Him, who makes good his promise of being with the two or three met together in his name. I desire to be made sensible more and more of his goodness, and of his tender mercy towards the children of men, and to be enabled to glorify his holy name, in a life of obedience to his holy will, so far as made known

concerning me. Adored be his power, for hitherto helping such a poor creature as I am!

13th. I feel this day very low, yet dependent upon Him, who alone can strengthen and enlighten the drooping mind. I often fear lest all should not be right in his holy sight, who sees me and all mankind, just as we are. The language of my heart is: "O! Thou Refiner and Purifier of thy children, purge out all the dross and tin, and all the reprobate silver, until the temple of my heart is a fit place for thine holiness to dwell in; and during the refining operation, be pleased graciously to support me, to bear all the turning and overturnings of thy Divine hand upon me, and cause light to arise in the needful time."

17th of 5th Month. Thankful this morning for a reduced, humble state of mind; and a petition hath been put up to the Lord, that He would send out his light and his truth to lead and guide me to his holy hill of Zion.

24th. This morning, on going into the counting-house to make an entry, and having so done, I looked at the clock and saw it was just ten; and it came fresh to my mind that the Yearly Meeting was then gathering. I sat down and endea-

voured after quietude of mind, and to feel with those met together, after the Divine presence; and was not altogether disappointed; and looking at the Assembly, a hope arose that the glorious cause they were met to promote, would prosper and prevail through time, to the honor of the Lord God and the Lamb, who will have the victory. May we all wait low, prostrate, as at the feet of Jesus, there to receive every qualification either for service, or suffering for the cause of truth; that we may stand in the day of trial, whatever may be permitted to befal us for a trial of our faith, which is more precious than gold.

30th. Although absent in body yet present in mind, with the Friends assembled at the Yearly Meeting, and satisfied in my present allotment; for how comfortable and refreshed hath my mind many times been, in the family I have been favored to be with. The company of the dear little children, as well as those more advanced, has been sweet to me; and it has been an encouragement to me to believe, that the servants in the family are concerned for their spiritual good. That they may hold on in the good way, and be increasingly concerned to know Him that is true, and not be satisfied until they feel by blessed experience, that they are in Him, even in Jesus

Christ, is the sincere desire of my mind for them all.

31st. This morning, after reading, a sweet and precious feeling was vouchsafed; and that which nourishes the soul up unto eternal life, was in some good degree experienced.

1st of 6th Month. Favoured again this morning with the overshadowing of Divine good. An inestimable favour it is, to be thus indulged day after day! I wish I may live a life of obedience, answerable to the requirings of Him, who thus deals with his children. He is a rich rewarder of all them who diligently seek Him.

2nd. Thankful this morning for a continued sense of good, and that nothing has been permitted to interrupt the precious unity which has been felt amongst us. What a favour that we are not left nor forsaken by the God of our lives.

4th. This evening I took leave of the dear family in which I have resided the last two weeks; and in looking back upon the time so spent, the retrospect is pleasant, and affords comfort to my mind; which was humbled under a sense of the Lord's goodness and mercies to his creature man; and may I not have less towards

Him, in those dispensations less grateful to our nature, when permitted to be our allotment.

6th. At Monthly Meeting to-day, the exercise of mind turned to the consideration of what the mind should be about in Meetings; and it afresh appeared to be, to wait to know the Master's will, and to do it; and I believed it right for me to express my view thereof to my friends, which tended to my own relief, and I hope was not unsatisfactory to those present; or I hope some one would give me a hint thereof. I wish to be resigned to be thus dealt with, and to have all the help I can; for I am sensible I stand in need of it. "Let the righteous smite me, it shall be a kindness; and let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head!" In the afternoon of this day, my spirit was humbled, and my heart contrited, at the interesting account my wife gave of the solemnity which prevailed at the close of the Yearly Meeting.—How consoling and encouraging are such seasons!

27th. I thought this morning, in my silent meditations, that true resignation to Him, who knows the end from the beginning, and ancient things and things not yet done, would best fit us for all his dispensations, and enable us to bear them, until He perfects that which most concerns

us. May it be my first and last concern, to be thus resigned! and all things will, I have no doubt, work together for good.

3rd of 7th Month. Had conversation to-day with a friend on several religious subjects, I trust to my own edification and instruction; particularly on the dedication of Daniel, in kneeling down thrice a day before Him, who has promised to give his Holy Spirit to them that ask it of Him. And I have renewedly believed that the practice of turning to the Lord, oftener than the day, in mental aspiration and supplication for help, would, if done in sincerity, be blesssed by Him, who is not slack in performing his promises; but will be found of them who seek Him, to their furtherance and growth in the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. I have found peace and satisfaction in thus retiring before the Lord. Many fears often attend my mind, on the subject of the awful engagement of speaking in Meetings in the name of the Lord, and lest I should run in my own will, or mistake the motion in my mind, and so get into a habit of speaking unbidden, and without the holy unction.—The Lord only knows what is good and right, and what is best, and when and how it is most fit to feed his own flock.

17th. Having obtained help of God, I continue to this day. Thanks to his great name who gave me life, breath, and being; who has supported and supplied that life ever since, in a plentiful manner, even when estranged from Him, and when serving divers lusts and pleasures; living in malice and envy. And O! what a favour that the kindness and love of God appeared, in visiting my soul, in order to redeem it from the pit of destruction, and bring it into the glorious liberty and freedom of the children of God! May I, the remainder of my days, walk worthy of so great a favour, and be more and more devoted to his praise, that his name may be glorified in and by me, while I continue in this mutable state.

8th of 8th Month. Having this morning been rather too slow in following my Guide, in a little apprehended requirement, another stepped in before me; and it has left a sadness on my mind, for not offering in the apprehended time; not through wilful disobedience to the Master's command, but rather from timidity of mind.—May I more and more desire after such a state of watchfulness and resignedness of mind, as to be truly any thing or nothing, just as it pleaseth Him, whom I desire to serve! and, so far as qualification is given, may I promote his

righteous cause in the earth; for in bowedness of mind can my soul acknowledge, that He is worthy over all, of adoration and praise!

18*th*. At our week day Meeting to-day, I experienced the advantage, and felt the privilege of thus meeting together for worship; and the refreshing stream of Divine love flowed into the soul from the Fountain of all good. Thanks to his holy name, therefore, are at this time offered.

22*nd*. Yesterday at Meeting, exercised with an apprehension of duty to speak in the name of the Lord, which I feel to be an awful engagement; yet a sweet employ when influenced by his Holy Spirit thereto, which gives strength to rise over every opposition; and when truth reigns over all, how doth the humble mind rejoice, and acknowledge to the goodness of the Lord, and to his marvellous dealings with the children of men; and at his merciful condescension to rebellious man!

28*th*. Attended Earith Preparative Meeting, and after a time of exercise, a little strength was afforded to express a few words by way of exhortation to be watchful, that we do not take our flight in the winter, nor on the sabbath day; and I returned home thankful for the goodness and

tender mercy of a Gracious Helper, who knows how to lead and guide his depending children; and never fails to help when resigned to do his will.

3rd of 10th Month. At Monthly Meeting today, a tossing time and not wholly resigned.—Too much of the creaturely part uppermost; O! that it may be more and more reduced, and the mind become more like a little child. This is a safe state, and my mind longs to be preserved therein.

4th. Low and weak this morning, feeling hardness and wandering of mind in retirement.—In reading after breakfast, a little relief. How I wish I could love the Lord my God with all my heart; serve Him with a willing mind; and seek Him, so that he may be found of me a poor creature; and never forsake Him, and incur the penalty of being cast off for ever.

8th. First day. Meeting in the morning heavy and exercising. Reading in my master's family, in the afternoon, was refreshing, as also that in my own family in the evening; which was a peaceful close of the day. May the evening of my life end in that sweet peace which passes all human understanding.

13th. Misquoted one word in a passage from Scripture at our week day Meeting this morning, through not sufficiently minding my good Guide, which produced regret and sorrow.

15th. Felt condemned this morning, for speaking something last evening, which would have been better omitted. I entreated forgiveness, and have since known a little quiet. What a favour it is to have an Advocate with the Father, when poor, frail man offends! "He is the Propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

16th. Comfortable, and feel the strengthening arm of that Power which is able to preserve, over all and through all, those who live near thereto, and keep humble and in true self abasedne-s.—In the evening, attended a little Meeting, intended to promote the circulation of the Scriptures, and felt a liberty to encourage the poor people to a cheerful surrender of their mite to so good a work, and was satisfied therewith.

18th. Refreshed this morning amongst my fellow workmen, at the house of my employer, before entering into the labour of the day. I wish it may be an increasing concern amongst masters, to instruct their dependants in the way

of truth and righteousness; then, I believe, would servants be more diligent and faithful in their employ. "Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in Heaven.". God is not unmindful of such a work and labour of love.

31st. Permitted to feel serenity and calmness. What a favour it is! I greatly esteem it, and can say: "Bless the Lord, O my soul! and forget not all his benefits!" but endeavour to think of them with gratitude and thankfulness. "O! that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"

2nd of 12th Month. Goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life. The Lord spared me from day to day, not giving me over to death and eternal judgment, even when an enemy to Him by wicked works. O! the compassion and long suffering to me when a rebel!

7th of 1st Month, 1816. A favoured Meeting to-day. Great is the love and goodness of the Heavenly Father, towards the children of men! I desire to be wholly devoted to Him; and that nothing may be too near or too dear to part with at his command; but that true resignation and

humility may be the covering of my spirit, so long as I am clothed upon with mortality; and may a spirit of love, and a serene mind, be continually experienced, that I may be prepared for every good word and work that may be required at my hands, by a good and gracious God; who when He calls upon his servants, qualifies them to do his will.

25th. At our week day Meeting both exercised and refreshed. It is well to be in the way of good. Thou exercised mind, who mayst at times be fearful and faint-hearted, keep near that Arm of Power, which never faileth to be the help of those who earnestly seek Him. He will strengthen them in the Lord, and they shall walk up and down in his name, saith He who is faithful to his promises.

14th of 3rd Month. A quiet habitation has been vouchsafed for some days past. Praise awaiteth the Lord, for his adorable goodness, to one so unworthy. "Trust ye in the Lord for ever; for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." He will not fail nor forsake those who love, fear, and serve Him with the ability He is pleased to impart.

1st of 4th Month. May this month be spent

in the fear of the Lord, and in endeavouring to serve Him with a perfect heart and a willing mind; bearing the cross daily, and following my Heavenly Leader, whether through evil report or good report, unmovable, seeking that honour which comes from God alone; all self-seeking done away, which so often disquiets the mind, and hinders from that which is good.

15th. Renewed desires that it may please Infinite Wisdom and Goodness, to prepare my heart as a fit residence for his holiness; and that the God of my salvation may not leave me; but that his loving-kindness and truth may continually preserve me.

22nd. Father of all my mercies! Thou knowest all things, and how poor and needy I am; but, if of thy poor in spirit, let me be content. If worthy to be reduced for the body, the Church's sake, then should I be thankful; yea, I should think it an honour to be made to suffer for its sake. May I resign all to Him who has a right to rule and reign in all our hearts.

29th. O Thou whom the wind and the sea obey! neither leave nor forsake thy little one! May I so abide in Thee, the Living Vine, as to receive nourishment, and bring forth fruit

to the praise of that great and excellent Name, which is ever worthy of adoration!

6th of 5th Month. Goodness and mercy still continued to me, from Him who is the source from whence all our comforts flow, and who alone can furnish poor, weak, and sinful man, with the means of happiness here and a blessed inheritance hereafter.

8th. Poor and needy, but sensible from whence help cometh. May I seek the Lord, and find Him a present help in the needful time!

19th. Arrived in London. In the afternoon attended a Meeting for worship at Devonshire House, was much encouraged in seeing many valuable friends gathered together, and refreshed by the precious covenant of love and life felt amongst us, and by all the living testimonies borne to the truth thereof.

20th. Attended the Meeting of Ministers and Elders, at ten o'clock. The preciousness of that power was felt, which first gathered us to be a people; and the business was weightily entered upon, and carried on with much love, unity, and harmony. This Meeting adjourned at one, and assembled again at four o'clock. At the conclu-

sion of this sitting, this language prevailed in my mind: "O my soul! learn daily more and more, to seek for that bread and water of life, which support the living in Israel, and strengthen them to labour in the vineyard of the Heavenly Husbandman; that thou mayst feel daily the fellowship and unity of the brethren, in Christ the Living Head of the Church.

21st. Met again this morning at ten o'clock. Very weighty and important business claimed the attention of this as well as the previous sittings; and friends minds were evidently deeply impressed therewith, and I trust the Meeting was favoured to arrive at a right decision, on the different subjects submitted to its deliberation.

22nd. The Yearly Meeting for Discipline met at ten o'clock; and I trust my mind was, in divers sittings, both instructed and comforted. The reading of several Testimonies of ministering friends deceased, raised a desire in my mind, that I might live so as to die like those that die in the Lord.

29th. Hold up my goings in the way, so that my footsteps slip not, is the language of my mind. Replenish my soul, O thou Fountain of all good! make me useful and fruitful in thy

heavenly vineyard! by thy quickening power, which *alone* can qualify to perform the work acceptably. O Lord, my God! in Thee do I put my trust, let me never be ashamed; but be Thou my arm every morning, and a defence from the face of the enemy.

30*th*. This day I have visited a little Meeting out of the compass of our own Monthly Meeting, the first time any concern of this sort has been experienced; and I was favoured beyond expectation to relieve my mind, and returned home in peace; thanks be to the Helper of those who endeavour to rely on Him, who has all power in heaven and in earth.

16*th of 7th Month*. "Thy name, O Lord! endures for ever, and thy memorial, O Lord! to all generations." May it please Thee, out of the riches of thy mercy and goodness, to incline my heart more and more to seek Thee, the Fountain of living waters; so that my spirit may drink thereof and be strengthened, as an instrument to water the plants of thy hands. Thus be Thou pleased, Thou Source of all blessedness, to help me and thy seeking children in all ages, to thy praise, and to the glory of thy great and everlasting name. Amen.

3rd of 9th Month. Received an intimation to day from a friend, relative to my offerings in the Ministry, advising me to examine the fleece both wet and dry; which has revived a concern, I trust often prevalent with me, that I may be preserved from going forth in the name of the Lord in the activity of the creature; and caused me to petition that I may not offend the Holy One of Israel, or any of his little ones, by speaking without the holy anointing.

8th. Enabled to thank and bless the Lord for his mercies and his goodness vouchsafed to me hitherto, helping in mind and body according to the wants of the day; and to beg for preservation in his holy fear all the days of my life, and to be strengthened to bear his dispensations, and all his turnings and overturnings, and to desire that nothing may remain in me, but that which cannot be shaken.

19th of 11th Month. Hitherto hath the Lord helped me.—May I walk with patience and perseverance in the path which leads to peace, in a holy, dedicated spirit!

Section III.

From the 5th of 1st Month, 1817, *to the 31st of 3rd Month*, 1820.

5th of 1st Month, 1817. At Meeting to-day, a solid, weighty feeling was experienced; and it proved a time both of instruction and encouragement.

11th. Peace and quietness cover my mind this evening; feeling the blessing of the Lord, which maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow therewith. I desire to be more and more devoted in heart and life, to walk humbly with Him the remainder of my days, that my footsteps slip not by the way. The Lord knoweth better than I do, what I am, and what is best for me; and I desire to cast all my care upon Him, and if He is pleased to uphold me by his free Spirit, I shall be safe from falling a prey to my own inclinations and weaknesses.

21st. O Thou Father of Mercies! be pleased to preserve me humble, patient, watchful, and

resigned; that in all things thy will may be done in me. Incline my heart to fear thy name, and to trust that Thou wilt be a present help in every needful time.

13th of 2nd Month. O Thou who art "the hope of thy people, and the strength of the Children of Israel! be pleased to make me of thy wrestling seed, that the blessing of strength and hope may be granted through this probationary state.

26th. This evening a little spiritual refreshment was granted after leaving work, and sitting down to read in the Scriptures, and to feel after holy help. O the goodness of God! who fails not to meet them that seek Him in sincerity and truth; and I desire as well as I can, to ascribe thanksgiving and praise, and to put my whole confidence and trust in his love and power, to carry on his own work in my soul; redeeming from all that is contrary to his holy will, that a pure offering may be offered unto Him in righteousness.

3rd of 3rd Month. It is the select Meeting this evening. May my mind be preserved from all that is wrong in my way to the place of meeting; and, when there, be favoured to wait for, and

feel after the living power of the Lord; and may I be willing to suffer, that I may reign with my Saviour. With these desires I leave home, longing for the blessing.

4th. Returned this evening from the Monthly Meeting, in peace and quietude of mind, feeling no condemnation. O! that preservation may be experienced, in the fear of the Lord, the rest of my days here on earth; and although weary in body, in the Lord's work, yet I am not weary of it; but love it more and more, and delight therein.

5th. On waking this morning, I felt quiet and serene, on looking back on yesterday's work.—I desire not to venture too far, either in the work, or amongst my friends, with whom I feel and meet with such great freedom and kindness, like children of one family, united by one kind and faithful Father, who begets unto his own likeness, by his own blessed power; and wills it should be so; everlasting praises be to his Holy Name, now and for ever and ever. Amen!

10th. Yesterday, I attended Chatteris Preparative Meeting and returned home in peace. The power of truth was felt amongst the assembled company. I wish both they and myself, may daily seek

after its quickening influence. This morning this portion of Scripture instructively arose: "Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out." May my concern increase to have oil in my own vessel; that my lamp may be kept burning, and when the Heavenly Bridegroom comes, I may be ready to enter in with Him to the Marriage Feast.

23rd. At Meeting twice to-day, but felt like the parched ground; and I longed for the dew of heaven to descend upon my spirit. Some little peace succeeded this exercise, which gives me encouragement to hope, that "the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water." And if fruitfulness appear, may glory be given to Him alone, to whom it belongs.

24th. Longing to bear the cross, and that victory may be obtained over sin, through the Captain of Salvation.

25th. A little unwatchfulness this day, (brought to my mind by the good Remembrancer,) interrupted that serenity which I believe was designed for me this evening. When will all the old things be done away, and all things become new? I believe it is for this good and gracious end that I am

permitted to feel as I now do; and O that I may profit thereby!

1st of 5th Month. Lead me and guide me, O Thou holy One! the remainder of my days, in the way that is acceptable in thy holy sight. I beseech Thee, for thy name's sake, let me not stray from thy holy law, written in my heart.

11th. After discouragement in the fore part of the Meeting to-day, some solid satisfaction was gained towards the close. I wish to be a patient waiter for Christ; and more and more to love his appearance in the heart; preparing it for the crown of immortal life.

3rd of 6th Month. I find great need to abide near that which crucifies the affections and the lusts: which would soon be uppermost, if we failed to look to that Power, which keeps alive unto God. May I put my trust, and cast all my care, on the All-sufficient Arm of help, that He may not take his Holy Spirit from me!

8th. I want to feel yet more of the reduction of self, in every part, that the pure seed of the Kingdom may arise, and all its blesssed fruits appear in life and conversation; and may I be united to the Unchangeable Source of all blessed-

ness, and experience fellowship with the faithful, and an union with the Father and with the Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour!

31st of 7th Month. Thankful to feel heavenly good is near, to preserve from the snares of death. O! that an abiding may be known, under the shadow of the Almighty; and a dwelling in the secret place thereof, until all danger is over, and a safe landing is permitted, out of the reach of all that would destroy the life in me.

23rd of 8th Month. I secretly covet preservation this day, and the remainder of my life, in the fear of the Lord; in the love and service of the Almighty, who (I have faith to believe) will be near to all that are concerned to devote their hearts and lives unto Him.

1st of 9th Month. Left home to attend Monthly Meeting, with a desire, that nothing of the man's part may get up, and I get smitten for forward zeal; and, through the mercy of Him, who hears and answers prayer, peace and satisfaction are enjoyed on my return. O! for a grateful sense of his goodness towards a poor creature, helpless of himself, and who is prone to wander, but longs to be gathered to the true fold, and there to know the Shepherd's voice.

20th. Leaving home to attend the Quarterly Meeting, to be held at Hitchin, with desires to be kept in the fear of the Almighty.

23rd. Returned in peace; and, although I had to pass through some deep exercises, yet I hope only such as have been for my good; reducing that in me, which opposes the righteous government of Him, whose right it is to reign in the hearts of his creatures. May I willingly submit to the purifying operation of that Power, which is all-sufficient to effect the work of cleansing, and to bear up under its operation. Trust in the Lord, for in Him alone is safety!

28th. The desire of my heart is, that in Meeting and out of Meeting this day, I may wait on God; for from Him only cometh my help.

2nd of 11th Month. In thee, O Lord my God! do I put my trust: let me never be ashamed!—Preserve me in thy fear, that I may never offend Thee!

24th. Greatly desiring to be preserved in the Heavenly Wisdom, and that the good fruits thereof may be apparent in me.

28th of 12th Month. Having obtained help of

God, I continue to desire to be enabled to serve Him in righte. usness and true holiness, the rest of my days here on earth; and O! that He may send out his light and his truth into my heart, and bring me to his holy hill, where I may offer sacrifices of joy and thanksgiving unto Him, who is my life—my all in all.

1*st of* 1*st Month*, 1818. Another year commenced. May I begin, go on, and continue, so long as permitted to be in the body, in the fear of the Lord; that whether I live this year throughout or not, I may obtain mercy through Him, who came into the world, and took our nature upon Him, and who suffered without the gates of Jerusalem, the just for the unjust, to bring us to God; that we may partake, with the saints in light, of that inheritance which is undefiled and fadeth not away. Let my trust be in the Lord, to do his will and his works in my soul, to fit it for such enjoyment.

12*th*. Thankful for the hope, that preservation from evil has been mercifully experienced. I desire to be made willing to suffer for the glory of God, and for the advancement and spreading of truth amongst mankind, in such way as may be consistent with his wisdom.

16th of 2nd Month. This encouraging language presents to my mind: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." I desire increasingly to know his voice, and to follow Him; and to flee from the voice of the stranger, every time it sounds to disturb or tempt.

16th of 3rd Month. Weak and unable, I think, for any service in the cause of truth; but I confide in best help, in the needful time.

23rd. Satisfied that no other thing than the Power of God in man, is sufficient to serve Him in holiness and righteousness; and, without fearing man, I desire to impress on others, the importance thereof.

30th. Attended Northampton Quarterly Meeting, and had solid satisfaction therein. Next day was at a Meeting at Raunds, to my own encouragement.

5th of 4th Month. Attended a burial yesterday, at Huntingdon. It was a day in which I was engaged in much religious exercise.

6th. Rose this morning under a feeling desire to know all well inwardly, and felt some satisfaction!

8th. Desirous that self should be made of no reputation, and that the Lord would be pleased to grant me his holy help, to lift up a standard against the great enemy of the soul's progress in the Divine life.

15th. Pantings of heart this morning, that all which is not right in me, may be overcome by the Spirit of truth, and that every thought, and every imagination of the creature, may be brought down to the obedience of Christ; that the Lord's work in me may not be marred, but that I may be permitted, in the close of time, to join the innumerable company in praising the great Redeemer.

26th. Desirous, and imploring the Father of mercies, and God of all substantial comfort, to be kept in the path of truth and righteousness; that the way wherein I should go may be made known unto me, by Him to whom I lift up my soul.

2nd of 5th Month. In going from home this evening, my heart's desire is to be preserved alive in the truth, that my return may be in that peace in God, which passeth the understanding of man, as man, in his natural and unenlightened state. I feel a renewed evidence, that the kindness and love of God, my Saviour, is still towards me.

4th. Returned home this evening, having been mercifully helped under much exercise.—O, that I might be clothed upon with the righteousness of God! and, through faith in Him, continue until death, bringing forth the fruits thereof.

21st of 6th Month. The reading of the Scriptures becomes more and more precious in my view; and O! that I may witness the fulfilment of some of the exceeding great and precious promises therein held out, to the humble, faithful followers of a crucified Saviour. That I may day by day know of that life which is hid with Christ in God; and that, in the ability received from Him, I may labour for the advancement and spreading of Truth.

29th. On reading, this evening, the exercises of a Minister amongst us, I was so forcibly struck with some parts, that the language of my heart was: "Preserve me, O thou blessed Saviour of men! on the right hand and on the left; and if I have missed my way, pardon me, and wash me in that Fountain, opened to the house of David, and to the Inhabitants of Jerusalem."

24th of 8th Month. O Lord! Thou art good, and doest good; Thou art God. O! that I may be preserved all my future days, to trust in Thee, and to have no other God but Thee.

21st of 10th Month. Quiet and serene, after a journey on truth's service; and favoured with contentment, to return again to, and settle industriously at my labour; and with a religious solicitude to maintain the cross, and trust in the Lord.

1st of 11th Month. Good desires prevail, that my mind may be preserved in the path that leads to peace.

14th. My soul, wait thou upon God! for my expectation is from Him, for pardon, and for grace to help in the time of need, and for daily bread, both for mind and body. May nothing be yielded to which is contrary to true holiness; but may I be able to regard the language of Paul to the Corinthians: "Watch ye; stand fast in the faith; quit you like men; be strong." And be strong through that grace which comes by Jesus Christ; that, through the virtue thereof, a complete separation may be known, between that which is of God, and that which is not; and the triumphant victory be proclaimed: "Thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

23rd. Dependant on the bountiful Giver of every good gift. I wish this sensibility to be

always the companion of my mind; and that a willingness may be experienced to be, in all states, content.

2nd of 12th Month. I am bound to acknowledge, that the Lord is good to me, day by day, in preserving, in feeding, in cloathing; having all, and abounding. O! that my heart may also abound with love and gratitude, for all his benefits, both spiritual and temporal; and be freely and cheerfully given up to every requiring which is made manifest.

1st of 1st Month, 1819. I have lived to see another year begun; and I desire to advance in the Divine life, as time moves on; so that, when the end comes, the work may be finished, and an entrance granted into the eternal inheritance.

30th of 3rd Month. Favoured with a quiet mind, after a journey into Northamptonshire. When the journey through this transitory state is over, may it be, as on this little religious engagement, without any feeling of condemnation; and that I may be found one of those, who through Divine aid, walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit; and may thereby be owned of Him, who is ordained to be Judge both of the quick and dead.

17th of 4th Month. Remembering this morning, one of our Society, and his fall, it has caused a cry in my mind for preservation, in an humble, little way; and a constant watchfulness against the rising of a vain mind. I also mourn for the scattered in our religious Society; and greatly desire all may, by watchfulness, be enabled to stand against the wiles of the devil; may be preserved from looking after great things, and may be blessed with contentment, in their several allotted stations. And may we all be qualified rightly to adopt this language: "He shall choose our Inheritance for us, the Excellency of Jacob whom He loved."

19th. I desire to be more resigned to the cross, standing open to it, and at all times in readiness to yield to the constraining or restraining power of the truth, that it may be my meat and drink to do the will of God.

11th of 5th Month. Impressed with the manifold mercies of Him, who is the same unchangeable, holy Majesty of heaven and earth, a query ariseth, Who can utter the praise that is due to his great and sacred Name; to Him, who in wisdom, made all things, and orders all things aright. May my soul adore and wonder, love, reverence, and obey that Power which formed

me, and which supplies my wants from day to day, and saves from evil!

13th. Reading to-day Patience Brayton's life and labours in the truth; my mind now, as at other times, feels as if I had a small share of such service and exercise; and yet fears often prevail, lest I should not be rightly sensible of the importance of so high and holy a profession; and lest I should be intruding where I ought not.

17th. Now in London, for the purpose of attending the Yearly Meeting. The first sitting of the Meeting of Ministers and Elders, on the second day morning, was, in the forepart, a time of solemn instructive silence; which was seasonably broken by a Friend, impressed with a persuasion, that the ancient Glory, which was yet the same, remained still with us, and would continue to be the rearward. Another Friend, since removed from works to rewards, bore a warning testimony to Ministers and Elders to be careful against coveting the wedge of gold, or taking a Babylonish garment; that there might not be a falling before the enemy, and becoming stumbling-blocks to others. Testimonies were borne, in the life, against a worldly spirit; and also much encouragement given to wait low, in deep humility, to know that to continue with and

amongst us, which would redeem from all impurity.

20th. I wish I may remember the exercise which has been manifested in the Yearly Meeting at large, for a close attendance of Meetings for discipline, and the lively testimonies borne thereunto. A precious testimony went forth for the everlasting Truth, and that friends might come to the root of life in themselves, and be built up therein.

21st. In the Meeting this day, divers solid and very instructive remarks were made, on some of the deficiencies in the answers to the queries; and one by a Friend from a distant land, which I much united with, that unfaithfulness in what might be called little things, was an inlet to greater.

22nd. A friend was engaged to bear testimony for the truth, as it relates to war, and redemption therefrom, into the meekness and gentleness of Christ; under the feeling of a contrast between having a dependance upon the Lord, and on the arm of flesh; in a beautiful and striking manner. It livingly brought to my remembrance the language of the prophet Jeremiah: "Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and

maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord." And "Bessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is."

The Meeting proceeded, and read the Foreign Epistles, which were both salutary and interesting; and it was especially so, to hear so much of the civilization of the Native Indians. My heart rejoiceth to hear that such a good work is pursued by Friends.

24th. On first day I was at Plaistow morning Meeting, and went to see a friend, who had been confined to his bed for twelve years, by a spine complaint. I wish to think of him; he is an example of patient suffering.

25th. Third day morning. Much interesting matter was communicated, on the subject of addressing the Legislature relative to the abolition of punishment by death. After which, some most interesting communications from our dear friends S. G. and W. A., now on an arduous visit upon the Continent of Europe, were read; which proved both interesting and edifying; exciting solemnity and thanksgiving, in many minds.—Surely, great is the goodness of Almighty God towards his people! I have since thought of those words of the Psalmist: "When the Lord shall

build up Zion, He shall appear in his glory."—I wish we, as a people, may abide under his constraining and restraining Power, faithful to his precious cause of truth on earth, from day to day.

31*st*. *Seventh day*. Yesterday was occupied chiefly in reading the several Epistle, which had been prepared for issue from this Yearly Meeting, and it concluded under a solemnizing feeling, which raised a longing desire in my heart, that all who were then present, with myself, may so live in the Divine fear and love, in humility, watchfulness and patient resignation, that an admission may be granted, at the close of this life, into that holy place, where all is love, adoration, and praise.

9*th of* 6*th Month*. Having had the privilege of attending the Yearly Meeting, and other Meetings since that time, I feel thankful that the precious savour thereof is not yet lost. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits! I desire an increase of willingness to bear the cross, in all its various ways, in order to mortify and destroy that part which cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven; and that I may be more and more dedicated unto the precious cause of truth; feeling the love of it all over. May a concern be maintained to wait on the good Re-

membrancer (the Spirit of Christ) from day to day, to obtain that which is needful, and to hear the gracious words which may proceed from His mouth; and, by yielding obedience to his holy teaching, may I go on from strength to strength, until I appear before Him amongst his redeemed ones in Zion, in the Church of the living God; there to praise Him through the boundless ages of eternity.

15*th*. Tried this day by having yielded to a little quickness of temper. But it has raised a petition in my heart to the great Power, for cleansing from every defilement; and for preservation in his most holy fear. O! that his will may be done in and through me, whilst on earth; and his blessed kingdom be established in and over all in me, to his own glory, and the praise of his great and ever excellent name!

25*th*. Poor and weak this morning, yet engaged to feel after the quickening power, to enable me to cast myself upon Him, who alone can sustain and keep alive the immortal part, and give contentment in all states.

29*th*. O that my heart was found in all the statutes of the Lord! that I might live in, and

keep his word; then should I not be ashamed, when I have respect to all his commandments.

17th of 7th Month. I am poor and needy.—O! that a continued exercise may be maintained to seek the Almighty, whose promise remains sure: "When the poor and needy seek water and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them." The blessed change of earthly for heavenly possessions, may my soul ever seek, and wait for the fulfilment of his great and gracious promises.

26th. How great are the tender mercies of the Lord towards them that love and fear Him; and great towards us, his frail creatures, is his compassion; who knows all our weaknesses and our imperfections. When we are desirous to walk in uprightness before Him. He is, in the aboundings of his love and mercy, forgiving, cleansing, healing, and strengthening us to hold on in that way, which He would have us to walk in. May I be preserved humble, watchful, patient, and resigned! may I pray without ceasing for preservation, through this world of snares, changes, and difficulties, so that, in the end I may have to sing Hallelujah to the Lord God and the Lamb; and that for evermore!

9th of 8th Month. Remember, my soul, what the dear friends, who this day visited me in my own family, said: "Reason not about any requiring of Him, whose thoughts and ways are as far above our ways, as the heavens are above the earth." O! Almighty Father! preserve me, I beseech Thee, in thy holy hand; let me not fall a prey unto the enemy, but enable me to walk in thy ways, and keep thy statutes, and be accepted of Thee, in time and in eternity, unto thy own glory and everlasting praise.

1st of 9th Month. "In the multitude of my thoughts within me, thy comforts delight my soul." Thou kind and merciful Father! I would praise Thee with my whole heart; for this end, be Thou pleased to renew me day by day.

20th. In Thee, O Lord! do I put my trust. Let me never be confounded. In humility and in thy fear, may my days be spent, so as to finish my course with joy.

11th of 10th Month. Poor and empty, as to any good, yet in humble hope that I am not forsaken by Him, who remains unchangeable; and comforted at the remembrance of having obtained help of Him whose mercies fail not, to continue

to feel after his power within, to guide me, and enable me to be resigned, and to do his holy will.

21st. Unto Thee, O Lord! do I lift my soul! cause me to know the way wherein I should go; and strengthen me to walk therein; in faith and obedience to thy revealed will.

23d. This day I have met reproof; and how unwilling is something within me to submit, in truth, unto that declaration of the Psalmist: "Let the righteous smite me, it shall be a kindness; and let him reprove me, it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head: for yet my prayer also shall be in their calamities." O! how I did think of this passage, and try myself, and felt the unwillingness to arise against submission to true judgment. However, I learn how easy it is to say one to another, 'Don't spare me, when thou seest any thing wrong in me'; but when judgment is laid to the line, and righteousness to the plummet, what flinching, and seeking to excuse self, rather than to resign self to the death of the cross. The solicitude of mind under these impressions, mercifully is, that I may be resigned to endure in such a manner, that I yield not unto temptation; that my faith fail not in the hour of trial. O, the danger!—

the need of true humility, and constant watchfulness, lest the enemy get advantage of me

14th of 11th Month. This morning the secret supplication of my heart, before setting out for Meeting, was, that I might be fully devoted and resigned unto the righteous government of Him, whose name shall endure for ever, and his memorial unto all generations; that I may be so under the controul of his pure Holy Spirit, that nothing may be able to separate me from his love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1st Month, 1820. Entered into another year. O, for a free surrender of heart and life, in the precious cause of truth! that, if continued through it, it may be wholly a year of resignation unto Divine disposal; and may it please Him, who knoweth all things, and what is needful and best for his creature man, to help me to attain to full dedication, and to bring down and subject all within me, unto his power; and may his merciful kindness be known unto me through life.

2nd Month. Surely goodness and mercy have followed me hitherto! O! that love and gratitude may, in return, be offered unto Him, who thus deals out to a poor, weak, unworthy creature, so

many favours, as have been dispensed unto me! May my trust and confidence be alone in the Lord, my Saviour and my Redeemer, for guidance and strength to do his will!

19th of 2nd Month. Great is my desire that through the remainder of my life, preservation may be known in Christ Jesus, the Lord of life and glory, so as to bring forth fruit unto righteousness and peace.

21st of 3rd Month. About to set out from home this morning, to attend a Quarterly Meeting.—Ardent is my desire for right direction and preservation, in humility and fear. Declined the same, under an apprehension, that it is safest to stop at home. I remembered that saying of the Psalmist: "The Lord preserveth the simple; I was brought low, and he helped me;" so that relief of mind was mercifully granted, and it raised a solicitude to endure the exercise of the day, and to abide under the restraining power of truth.

31st. "Bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar," and may I not look back by any trial or affliction, that may attend me, in my remaining pilgrimage through life; but be enabled to look forward, holding fast the

profession of faith without wavering; knowing Him to be faithful who calleth. May nothing separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus; but may I be more than a conqueror through Him who hath loved us! O my soul! remember thou the renewal of his love *this* morning, for thy encouragement not to faint in low times!

The

The Letters from which the two following Extracts are taken, have no dates.

This day I have received my dear friend's letter, and carefully read the same; and find an acknowledgement of sensibility of favour granted to an unworthy receiver. This is no bad sign, for if we begin to think any thing contrary to that, there is much danger; indeed, as to myself, if any thing does arise like pluming myself, (and what is there that will not arise that is bad,) I begin to be alarmed; for I remember often what hath been said to me more than once, by a friend; "If we begin to think we are getting on well, we are in the most danger;" and I also remember, whilst I am writing, the Apostle's saying: "If any man thinketh he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet, as he ought to know."

I am much afraid of that knowledge which puffeth up; but long for that more excellent way which edifieth; not so much on thy account as

my own; for whilst such a sensibility prevails, no puffing up is known; and perhaps some may be tried on this hand, as others are on the other; so that no safety is to be known but in watchfulness and prayer. I wish thee to read the 2nd and 3rd chapters in that little book, "*Guide to true Peace*," and let it have its due weight on thy mind.

Dear Friend, the saying of the Psalmist comes freely to my mind: "Thou, Lord, wilt not forsake them that seek Thee." Then surely, if He does not forsake, and thou longest for his holy aid, there is an agreement; then no danger, whilst this is the case, of falling. I had rather we should be tried, than have any thing remaining which would mar the work of purification.

I was struck with admiration on entering your room last evening, and finding you collected together, seeking for a little of that consolation, the increase of which is better than corn, wine, or oil; and I believe it was sensibly felt, that a measure of it was afforded to the exercised amongst you. I wish you may be able to thank

and praise Him, who inclines your minds; and that you may take courage to hold on in the good practice of thus gathering together, to seek for this help, which will enable you to go in and out before your children, and those about you, in that fear and circumspection, which will confirm to them that there is something in religion more than form; exciting them to follow you, as ye follow Christ, in meekness and fear.

FINIS.

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